

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SYE-00 FBO-02 USIA-06 /021 W  
-----280902 070092 /11  
P 280824Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2372  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

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STATE FOR A/SY/FO; HONG KONG FOR RSS

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJ: RENOVATION OF OBX BUILDING, SEOUL, KOREA

REF: A. STATE 39481; B. HONG KONG 2130; C. SEOULOM OF JULY  
23, 1976

1. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR, USIS EXECUTIVE OFFICE, PAO,  
FBO REPRESENTATIVE AND RSO WORKED MANY MONTHS OVER THE  
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OBX BEFORE THE DRAWINGS OF THE  
PROPOSED SECURITY DESIGN WERE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY  
SEOUL OM OF JULY 28, 1976. THESE DRAWINGS TOOK INTO  
CONSIDERATION ALL POINTS RAISED BY SEOUL ON OF JULY 23 AND  
THIS OM ATTEMPTED TO POINT OUT THE PROBLEMS TO THE DEPARTMENT  
WHICH HAD BEEN FACED BY ALL CONCERNED. PARA 1 OF THE OM  
STATED THAT THESE DRAWINGS WERE BEST SOLUTION AFTER ALL  
REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS WERE CONSIDERED. NATURALLY,  
THE RSO SIGNED OFF ON SUCH AN OM.

2. DURING THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER, THE RSO RECEIVED A  
TELEPHONE CALL FROM A/SY/FO CONCERNING THE CHANCERY ANTI-  
TERRORIST CONSTRUCTION AND DURING THAT CONVERSATION, WAS  
INFORMED THAT A/FBO, USIA, AND A/SY HAD THEIR OWN PROPOSAL  
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FOR THE OBX AND HOPED THE RSO WOULD CONCUR WHEN THE PLAN  
WAS RECEIVED. ON 23 SEPTEMBER POST RECEIVED STATE 234733  
SETTING FORTH THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL AND BY THE WORKING  
OF THE MESSAGE AND THE TELEPHONE CALL, THE RSO FELT NO  
COUNTER-PROPOSAL WOULD BE ACCEPTED, ESPECIALLY AFTER  
HAVING GONE THROUGH THE SAME TYPE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH  
THE DEPARTMENT OVER THE ANTI-TERRORIST CONSTRUCTION IN THE

CHANCERY LOBBY. IT HAD TAKEN A SPECIAL TRIP TO SEOUL FOR THE RSS TO SETTLE THAT DISAGREEMENT; THEREFORE, WHEN STATE 234733 WAS RECEIVED, THE RSO CONTACTED THE RSS TELEPHONICALLY AND DID NOT SEND A PROTEST OR COUNTER-PROPOSAL TO THE DEPARTMENT.

3. THE RSO, ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, USIS EXECUTIVE OFFICER ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE ORIGINAL PLAN SUBMITTED IN SEOUL OM OF JULY 23 IS STILL THE BEST PLAN, FROM A SECURITY STAND POINT. THE RSO AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR AND USIS/SEOUL DO NOT APPROVE OF THE DEPARTMENTS PLAN AND AGREE WITH THE RSS'S COMMENTS IN SEOUL 999. HOWEVER, IF THE DEPARTMENT INSISTS ON ITS PLAN THE POST RECOMMENDS AT LEAST: (A) SWITCHING THE LOCAL GUARD AND THE MSG, (B) BOTH BOOTHS TO BE CONSTRUCTED OF BULLET RESISTANT MATERIAL AND (C) INSTALLING ELECTRICALLY CONTROLLED EXTERIOR ENTRANCE DOORS WHERE THE OLD DOOR HAD TO BE REMOVED.

4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE RSO INFORMED THE USIS (IOS) REPRESENTATIVE IN NOVEMBER 1975 OF THE PLANNED LOCATIONS FOR THE MSG AND LOCAL GUARD BOOTHS IN THE LOBBY OF THE OBX AND HE CONCURRED. THE BOOTHS WERE SUBMITTED AS AGREED FOR LOCAL GUARDS AND MSG, EXCEPT THAT IN THE DRAWING THE LOCATIONS WERE REVERSED DUE TO A BUILDING COLUMN LOCATED IN THE LOBBY.

5. RSO FEELS HIS PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION HAS BEEN GREATLY DAMAGED IN THE DEPARTMENT AND AT POST OVER THE ANTI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TERRORIST CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS AND HOPES THAT ALL DISAGREEMENTS CAN BE SOLVED PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, NOW PLANNED FOR MAY. THIS WILL LEAVE THE POST AND A NEW RSO WITHOUT THESE DISAGREEMENTS AND ONLY WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE MATERIAL WHEN IT ARRIVES.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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